

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING WALTER SENKOW FOR UNPARALLELED YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO CHILDREN THROUGHOUT DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join family, friends and community leaders in extending my thanks and appreciation to Walter Senkow as he celebrates retirement after unparalleled years of public service to children throughout Delaware County, PA.

Here in Congress, we often have occasion to pay tribute to the work of great men and women and comment on the impact they have had on us. It is fitting to recall that few have a more important calling than those who have made a lifetime commitment on behalf of the education of our children. In a career that has spanned 44 years of school-board service, Mr. Senkow has involved himself in the education of young people at nearly every level.

Mr. Senkow, a retired Marine who served during World War II, is a man for whom public service blended seamlessly into the fabric of his life. His leadership in education has led to significant improvements that will continue to make a difference in the lives of students for years to come. Among his singular achievements at the Delaware County Intermediate Unit (DCIU) were serving as board president since 1983 and guidance of the project which consolidated DCIU Education Service Center into the Morton, PA, location.

Educator, administrator, advocate, and community leader, Walt Senkow has dedicated a lifetime of commitment to Delaware County, PA, and its residents. He has left an indelible mark—a model of all that a community member should be and an example to which we would all aspire.

Mr. Speaker, Walt Senkow has demonstrated a unique and consummate dedication to public service. I have no doubt that he will continue in these efforts even after his retirement. On the occasion of his retirement, we thank him for his dedicated service and wish him all the best for the future.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the goals and ideals of National Entrepreneurship Week. As you are well aware, businesses today face global competition at an unprecedented level. Outsourcing, off-shor-

ing, and supply-chaining have opened new avenues to maximizing profit, but also pose dangers to local companies and their employees. The impact can be felt all over the country. It is important that we recognize the critical role entrepreneurship plays in sustaining an innovation driven economy.

The lifestyle and economic success we enjoy as a Nation are in large part the result of successfully leveraged technologies by some of our most creative thinkers in commerce. Our natural advantages as an economic superpower are waning, and we must commit to maintaining our leadership role in the global economy. This means continued support of 7(a) small business loans, modernizing and making permanent the tax credits for research and development, and adequately funding the Small Business Administration. We must also recognize the need for educating our next generation of innovators. Along with teaching math, science, and engineering skills, teaching entrepreneurship to the next generation of leaders is one of the best investments we can make in our economic future.

Entrepreneurship programs and research offer the knowledge to grow pioneering ventures that provide jobs and contribute to development. A systemic improvement in these areas also makes for better informed policy makers, investors, and support organizations that can better create an environment to foster innovation and entrepreneurial success.

America has prospered when it has led, particularly in the fields of business and science. I believe we are at a "Sputnik" moment, and need to rise to the challenge of new and changing global landscape. It is vital that we do so with creativity and imagination.

MINIMUM WAGE AND THE ESTATE TAX

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday the House Republican Majority defeated a Democratic effort to increase the minimum wage. The current federal minimum wage, \$5.15 per hour, has not been increased since 1997. Consequently, inflation has eaten away at its purchasing power to the point that, adjusted for inflation, the minimum wage is now the weakest it has been in 50 years. This is not acceptable.

Energy prices are on the rise. The cost of college is skyrocketing. In Western New York, middle class families are working harder yet falling farther behind. The least this Congress can do is to update the minimum wage to a more just level, and to ensure that no American who works full time has to live in poverty. It should be a goal of this great Nation to guarantee as much. Yet last week we were denied the opportunity to vote on legislation to do just that. The House Republican Majority's

vote to block an increase in the minimum wage for millions of Americans, stood in stark contrast to a vote cast just minutes afterward, to give away millions in tax cuts designated for only the very wealthiest Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I support tax relief for middle class families, small businesses and family farmers. Unfortunately, in today's debate on the estate tax, Democrats, led by Mr. POMEROY, were denied the opportunity to offer our substitute, which would exempt 99.7% of all estates from the estate tax entirely. In my state of New York only 422 estates—that is only one quarter of one percent of all estates in the entire state—would pay any estate tax at all.

The Democratic substitute would have cost far less than H.R. 5638 and is a superior approach in a variety of ways. It would be paid for by closing the gap in uncollected taxes, and would have transferred estate tax revenue tax receipts to shore up the Social Security trust fund. Yet we were denied the opportunity to vote on this Democratic substitute, and as a result the House passed a bill today that will do nothing to help the middle class and will unnecessarily drive up our national debt.

The legislation the House passed last Thursday will slash taxes for multimillionaires while sticking our children and grandchildren with the bill. H.R. 5638 will cost the American people \$762 billion over the first ten years it is in effect. This at a time when, due to the economic decisions of this Administration, we are running huge annual budget deficits and our national debt is at a record high. We are sinking further into debt held by foreign governments such as China and Japan, and future generations of Americans will be paying the interest on this additional \$762 billion in debt for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is not often that in just one day in Congress the American people are able to see the economic priorities of the Republican Majority so clearly. Yet last Thursday a small handful of millionaires got off at a high price to the rest of us, and hardworking men and women took a huge hit.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2006

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during rollcall votes 316, 317, and 318 taken on June 22.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on No. 316 (the motion to recommit H.R. 4890), "aye" on No. 317 (final passage of H.R. 4890), and "aye" on No. 318 (final passage of H. Res. 323).

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